

The Horse Close Up



Each part of a horse's body does its own job. Its feet and legs are able to carry a thousand pounds at a walk, run, gallop, and even jumping! Big teeth and large jaws grind up hay and grass. A long neck helps warm water a horse drinks in the winter before it hits the stomach. A big chest allows their lungs to expand to take in lots of air. Even the whiskers serve a purpose—to help them feel in the dark so they don't bang their noses into things.

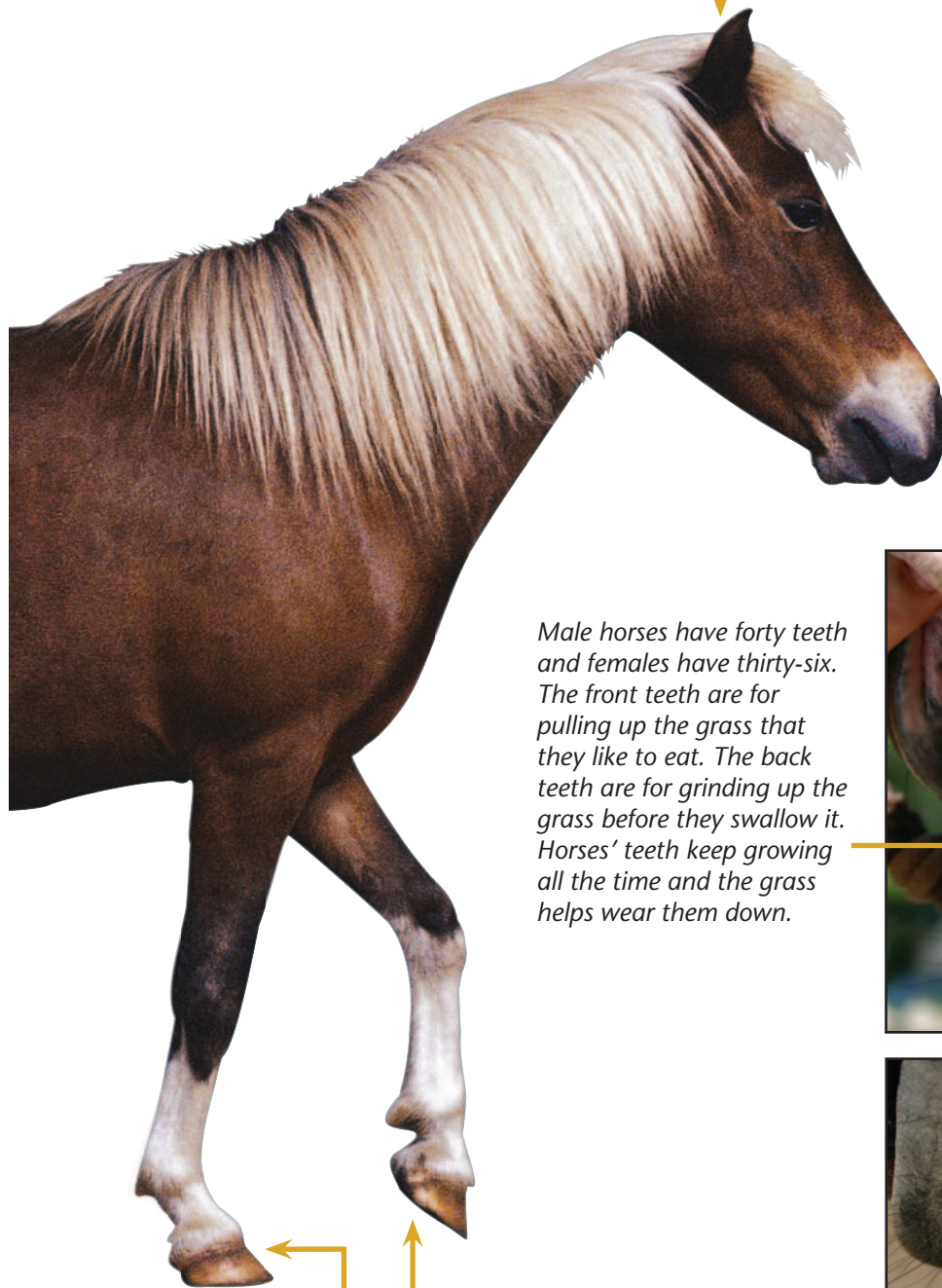
Horses have long tails. They use their tail to swish flies off their bodies in the summer. It also helps to drip rain and snow away from their bodies. When horses are excited they sometimes run with their tail flipped up high like a big flag waving behind them!



Horses of all colors often have white in different places on their heads. A white spot in the middle of their forehead is called a "star." A white streak down the center of the nose is called a "stripe." If the stripe is really wide, it is called a "blaze."

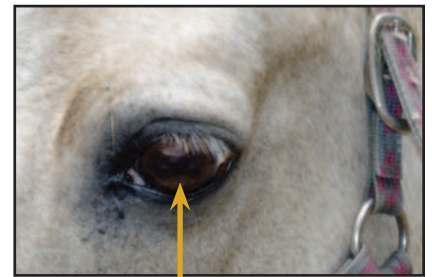
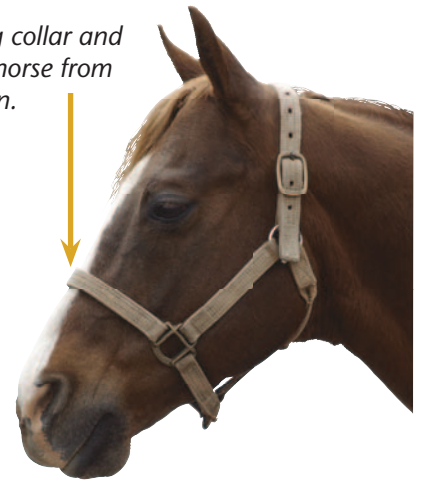


The best way for a horse to protect itself from an enemy is to run. They can run fast! If they don't get away quickly enough, they will bite with their teeth, strike with their front legs, or kick with their back legs.



Horses show their feelings with their ears. When their ears are facing forward, they are happy and ready to listen to their rider. If their ears are flat against their head, watch out! They are really mad!

The halter is like a dog collar and helps a rider lead the horse from the pasture to the barn.



Horses have big, friendly eyes on the sides of their heads that help them see where they are going.

Male horses have forty teeth and females have thirty-six. The front teeth are for pulling up the grass that they like to eat. The back teeth are for grinding up the grass before they swallow it. Horses' teeth keep growing all the time and the grass helps wear them down.



Horses have one big toe on each foot called a hoof. The hoof is hard on the outside.



Horses use whiskers to feel the edges of things, especially in the dark.